

Authorizing progressive bingo games with prizes up to \$2,500

HB 2265 by Haggerty (Averitt)

DIGEST: HB 2265 would have authorized progressive bingo games and allowed prizes for these games to exceed the current \$750 prize limit for single bingo games. A progressive bingo game would have been a game in which the prize increased over successive bingo occasions, which are a series of games, until a player won.

The prize in a progressive bingo game would have been called a “jackpot prize,” and prizes for games in which no player won the jackpot would have been called “consolation prizes.” Jackpot prizes could not have been more than \$2,500 for a single progressive bingo game, and consolation prizes could not have been more than \$250. Jackpot and consolation prizes would not have counted toward the limit on the aggregate value of prizes that are limited for a bingo occasion. Only one progressive bingo game could have been offered during each bingo occasion.

GOVERNOR’S REASON FOR VETO:

“House Bill No. 2265 would authorize progressive bingo, in which the jackpot prize can grow to several times the currently allowed level. This is a significant departure from existing legal charitable bingo games.

“The bill would allow a progressive bingo jackpot to grow to \$2,500, compared to the current maximum \$750. The progressive prize would not count against the current cap on total prizes, resulting in a \$10,000 cap on prizes for the evening. This is not in keeping with the nature of charitable bingo and threatens to cost the charities more in prize payouts than they will gain in revenue from players.

“Progressive bingo represents an expansion of gambling beyond anything contemplated when Texas allowed neighborhood charitable bingo halls.”

RESPONSE: Neither Rep. Pat Haggerty, the bill’s author, nor Sen. Kip Averitt, the Senate sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

NOTES: HB 2265 was analyzed in Part Two of the April 25 *Daily Floor Report*.